* **Axis I: Clinical Syndromes**   
  This axis describes clinical symptoms that cause significant impairment. Disorders are grouped into different categories, including adjustment disorders, anxiety disorders, and pervasive developmental disorders.
* **Axis II: Personality and Mental Retardation**  
  This axis describes long-term problems that are overlooked in the presence of Axis I disorders. Personality disorders cause significant problems in how a patient relates to the world and include [antisocial personality disorder](http://psychology.about.com/od/psychiatricdisorders/a/dis_antisocial.htm) and [histrionic personality disorder](http://psychology.about.com/od/personalitydisorders/a/histrionic.htm). Mental retardation is characterized by intellectual impairment and deficits in other areas such as self-care and interpersonal skills.
* **Axis III: Medical Conditions**  
  These include physical and medical conditions that may influence or worsen Axis 1 and Axis II disorders. Some examples may include HIV/AIDS and brain injuries.
* **Axis IV: Psychosocial and Environmental Problems**  
  Any social or environmental problems that may impact Axis I or Axis II disorders are accounted for in this assessment. These may include such things as unemployment, relocation, divorce, or the death of a loved one.
* **Axis V: Global Assessment of Functioning**   
  This axis allows the clinician to rate the client's overall level of functioning. Based on this assessment, clinicians can better understand how the other four axes are interacting and the effect on the individual's life.